Dear Pastor Ralph,

As I am writing you this short note, a light snow is falling outside. Everything is pure and clean and white. But that isn’t the way my life is going. There is one worry after another piling up just like the snow. Although COVID-19 and its variants still top the list, there are a myriad of other things besides. Will war break out in Europe? Will inflation ruin our economy? Will I lose my job? What will happen to my investments? Might my fiancé change her mind and leave me standing at the altar alone? Will some of the struggling churches in the Green Bay area, including our own, be forced to close their doors because parishioners have stopped worshipping together and contributing together of their time, talents, and treasures? And when will life return to normal? Indeed, will there ever be a normal again? How do I respond to all of this? And now I must ask my key question: Where is God when you need God?  


Dear Troubled Christian,

First of all, since I have only one wedding scheduled this spring, I will confidently say that I know you and your fiancé quite well. Have no fear there. The two of you are meant for each other. As for the other questions you have, I offer you this response. Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God, who have been called according to God’s purpose.” I bet after reading those words you will have another question floating in your mind. “Pastor Ralph, how can ill health, suffering, loss of possessions, and other kinds of disaster possibly work together for my good indeed our good?” My answer is short and simple. The reality and the truth of the matter is they don’t work together for everyone’s good.

And why do I say that. I say and believe that because I know that unbelievers simply cannot understand that. They cannot understand how calamities in life can serve to draw one closer to God and refine one’s faith and trust in God. Unbelievers can’t understand how afflictions, or what they are inclined to call bad luck, can draw someone away from the world and lead them to a richer prayer life and a stronger reliance on their loving God. Unbelievers can’t possibly understand how trials and temptations uncover the evil in one’s heart and at the same time make the faithfulness of a loving and gracious God stand out like the sun in a clear blue sky following a snowstorm. Yes, it’s true all storms eventually do end. But in God’s good time.

A child of God, on the other hand, understands all this very well. A child of God has complete confidence in what these words spoken by Jesus say, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father, and even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So, don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Question: Do you believe that you and your fiancé are precious in God’s eyes? I hope you do. But if there is any doubt we can work on it as we meet to plan your wedding ceremony.

In view of all this and with Christ’s redeeming sacrifice as the perfect background, it would be strange indeed if we could not share then Paul’s complete confidence: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God.” It is this confidence which not only makes life bearable for us but also provides us with a cheerful outlook. So, no matter what things arise we can have the hope that springs eternal. God is on our side. Our hopes here and in the hereafter have a solid basis upon which to build. Their fulfillment does not depend upon our own feeble, groping, spasmodic efforts. God has taken the matter in hand. We are secure no matter what. Listen as the Lord God asks and answers similar questions in the book of Joshua: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. “So, fearful saint, fresh courage take. The clouds you so much dread are big with mercy. And they too shall break in blessings on your head.”

Shalom, Pastor Ralph
JANUARY CALENDAR

2/3 — 6:30PM — Impacting Incarnation Campaign Committee Meeting
2/6 — 9:00AM — Sunday Morning Worship (Holy Communion)
2/10 — 6:30PM — Church Council Meeting (All Members Invited to Attend!)
2/13 — 9:00AM — Sunday Morning Worship
2/16 — 9:30AM — Women’s Bible Study (With Pastor Ralph @ Incarnation)
2/20 — 9:00AM — Sunday Morning Worship (Holy Communion)
2/27 — 9:00AM — Sunday Morning Worship

WORSHIP LESSON READERS

February 6 — Bonnie Zima
February 13 — Karen Nantelle
February 20 — Sandy Krakow
February 27 — Ken Anderson
March 6 — Scott Liddicoat
March 13 — Dennis Finell
March 20 — Linda Snell
March 27 — Bonnie Zima

2022 Lent/Holy Week Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship
March 2 2:00PM

Lenten Midweek Bible Study Time and Theme To Be Announced

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
April 10 9:00AM

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 14 2:00PM

Good Friday Worship
April 15 2:00PM

Easter Sunday Worship
April 17 9:00AM
INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
Website: incarnationorg.com

MEETING MINUTES OF
Thursday, January 20th 2022

1. Meeting called to order by: Vice President Judy Trow at 6:35

2. Roll Call of Council Officers and Council Members
   - Present: Pastor – Ralph Hankermeyer
   - Present: President – Craig Eichinger Dec 2023
   - Present: Vice President – Judy Trow Dec 2023
   - Present: Treasurer – Myrna Herrbold Dec 2023
   - Present: Secretary – Allan Kvam Dec 2022
   - Present: Sandy Krakow Dec 2022
   - Present: Aaron Hankermeyer Dec 2022
   - Present: Rick Manning Dec 2022
   - Absent: Sherry Rasmussen Dec 2022
   - Present: Scott Liddicoat Dec 2022
   - Present: Debbie Liddicoat Dec 2023

3. Devotions: Thank You, Pastor Ralph Hankermeyer

4. Officer Selection
   a) President Craig Eichinger Nominated, Accepted & Unanimous Vote
   b) Vice President Judy Trow Volunteered, & Unanimous Vote
   c) Treasurer Myrna Herrbold Nominated, Accepted & Unanimous Vote
   d) Secretary Allan Kvam Volunteered, & Unanimous Vote

5. Approval of Agenda:
   a) Changes? Dates of Office and February Meeting Date
   b) Motion by Aaron Hankermeyer Second by Judy Trow Approved: YES

6. Approve/Modify Monthly minutes of December 16th, 2021
   a) Changes? None
   b) Motion by Myrna Herrbold Second by Sandy Krakow Approved: YES

7. Pastors Report: Pastor Ralph Hankermeyer
   a) Pastor is giving Communion to several individuals in different methods
   b) Update on members (health and other)
   c) Future
      i) Baptism (2)
      ii) 1st Communion (3)
      iii) Confirmation (1 + 2)
   d) Small discussion on members that were in good standing at Incarnation but have not returned to worship
   e) Small discussion on Safety Issues with banners/pictures/outside groups
   f) Vacation schedule
      i) May 15 and May 22 (Pastor Egebo to preside)
      ii) July 10, July 17 dates are open for a Pastor
      iii) July 24 (Pastor Egebo to preside)

8. Standing Teams:
   a) Events Sandy Krakow
      i) Game Night (signup sheet)
      ii) Souper Bowl Table
      iii) YAH’s?
   b) Worship & Music Aaron Hankermeyer and Myrna Herrbold
      i) Pre-Lude and Post-Lude are covered under required license
      ii) Organist are working with Worship and Music Committee on hymn sections
INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL  
Website: incarnationlh.com  

MEETING MINUTES OF  
Thursday, January 20th 2022  

iii) Recording and Viewing of worship  
a) Steady but low in numbers  
b) Quality is good and improving with technology  
iv) Lenten Season  
a) March 2 – Ash Wednesday @ 2:00  
b) April 10 – Palm Sunday @ 9:00  
c) April 14 – Maundy Thursday @ 2:00  
d) April 15 – Good Friday @ 2:00  
e) April 17 – Easter @ 9:00  
v) Fellowship – Fellowship is open after services and doing well  
c) Christian Education – Don Kneisler and Judy Trow  
i) Women’s Bible Study is ongoing  
ii) Lent Bible Study is being discussed  
iii) Sunday Bible Study (Adult Forum) – possibly begin February 20 @ 10:15  
d) Finance & Treasurer – Myrna Herrbold  
i) Profit and Loss report  
ii) Cash Balance report  
e) Building & Grounds – Rick Manning (Tim Kesey)  
i) Finish Christmas Decorations  
ii) Planning on big spring cleanup  
iii) Lawn care – looking good with signup sheet to be put out in spring  
v) Sunday School Classroom Cleanup and Organization (watch for signup)  
f) Stewardship – Allan Kvat  
i) New committee to look at Financials  
ii) Concentrate on volunteers (could always use some help with this! Hint, Hint)  
g) Evangelism – Don Kneisler  
i) Discussion on neighbor (flyers and mailers)  
h) Social Ministry – Sherry Rasmussen and Sandy Krakow  
i) Continuing to look at other events  
ii) Salvation Army / Socks & underwear drive / Other  
iii) If you have any ideas or would like to help, please talk to Sandy  
i) Technology – Aaron Hankermeyer and Scott Liddicoat  
i) Video and Sound is looking good for Worship Service and ZOOM Meetings  
ii) Looking into Facebook and other media  
j) Impacting Incarnation Campaign – Warren Egebo  
i) Basic committee to evaluate the future of Incarnation Lutheran Church  
ii) Increase Membership / Review Finances / Investigate Outside the Church  
iii) Mission Statement  
v) Looking for members – Pastor Warren has 3 so far  

9. Special Business – Eleanor Vogl  
a) Discussion on Finances – no pointing fingers, just informational at the meeting  
i) Moneys to be cut / Mortgage payoff  
ii) Discussion on Income versus Expenses  
iii) Discussion on Yoke / Merger of congregations  
a) Definitions and terminology  
b) Synod help or guidance
iv) Discussion on membership
   a) Past / Present / and where we can go for the Future

10. Old Business:
    a) Sign
       i) “Empty Nest” is good but we need to rotate the slogan/message more often

11. New Business:
    a) Council Member Installation – date to be decided

12. Next Meeting:
    a) Thursday, February 10th at 6:30 pm
    b) Devotions by Judy Trow
    c) The Council would like to invite all Incarnation Lutheran Church members to join us!

13. Adjournment:
    a) Motion by: Judy Trow        Second by: Scott Liddicoat        Approved  YES
    b) Adjourn at: 8:27

14. Lord’s Prayer

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TREASURER’S REPORT

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2022 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Craig Eichinger — Council President        Aaron Hankermeyer
Judy Trow — Vice President                Sherry Rasmussen
Allan Kvam — Secretary                   Scott Liddicoat
Myrna Herrbold — Treasurer                Sandy Krakow
Rick Manning                              Debbie Liddicoat
January 22nd, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Incarnation Lutheran Church,

During last week’s Annual Meeting, there was a report by Myrna Herrbold, the treasurer of our congregation, concerning an impending financial crisis we may be facing in roughly 26 months. We have a deficit of approximately $2000.00 per month towards our continuing budget general expenses and building fund account. We are currently relying on an estate gift to bail us out and pay bills, and those gift funds that were originally $40,000.00 are now down to around $30,000.00.

As such, during the meeting I volunteered to form a Long Range planning committee to see if we could address the issues facing our church in the future.

Additional great round table discussion was had at the Thursday night Church Council meeting last week, and two Church Council members and one congregational member guest at the meeting volunteered to join the committee as well:

Rick Manning (Church Council)
Eleanor Vogl (Member)
Scott Liddicoat (Church Council)

The initial name I have given to this new standing committee is the "Impacting Incarnation Campaign". The committee will spawn several task forces to work on goals highlighted by the Standing Committee working alongside the Incarnation Church Council and congregational membership.

Some goals might be:
1. Communication within and outside of the congregation.
2. Witness to our neighborhood.
3. Developing a sound stewardship strategy to handle our expected deficit and to get back on solid ground financially.
4. Explore new ministries to enhance all of our discipleship to our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ.

And so, I invite you to join our new standing committee: "Impacting Incarnation Campaign." I envision a one year term with a renewal of membership or signing off of the committee after one year. The Standing Committee may go on for a second year if there is need and interest.

The first meeting of the committee is planned for Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30PM at Incarnation's Fellowship Hall.

Please call me at (215) 200-1680 {This is my cell phone.} or email me at klon@epix.net if you would like to join the committee.

In Christ,

Notes from the Social Ministry Committee:

• You will notice our Super Bowl table is up where we have a contest between the AFC and NFC to see which gets the most food donations for our local food pantry partners!

• There is a Refreshment Duties sheet on the wall in the kitchen to the right of the sink, and also coffee instructions on cupboard door where coffee is kept.

• We are now back to using our ceramic cups rather than paper cups. This requires running the dishwasher as part of clean-up.

• Although we no longer have quilters at Incarnation, you can continue to donate flat sheets and blankets. They will be used by other churches’ quilters.

• Also, you can continue to donate your pillow cases. Please take a look at the cute dresses that are made with them hanging on the rack in the Narthex.

Sandy Krakow & Sherry Rasmussen

Sunday Morning Adult Forum Returns!
Beginning Sunday, February 20, Adult Forum will resume during fellowship hour following worship!

The topic of each week’s discussion will be based on the lessons appointed for the day, and Pastor’s sermon.
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